

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SALEM, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2014**

PRESENT

TJ Butcher
Greg Preston
Janet Griggs
George Householder
David Kennedy
Carole Eckart
Hernan Salas
Robert Sartori, Alt
Cindy Noe/ Recording Secretary

ABSENT

John Dolan, Alt

GUESTS

CALLED TO ORDER

TJ Butcher called the meeting to order 7:02pm

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors that wished to be recognized in attendance

SEAT ALTERNATE IF NEEDED

No alternates were required

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter to the Board from Diba Khan-Bureau regarding the BOE (See File Copy)
Letter to the Board from Emma Smith regarding the BOE (See File Copy)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

4A, add to agenda, Air Handler discussion
4B, add to agenda, BOE additional appropriation discussion

AGENDA,

1. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 27

Page 5, ¶3, School Bond Payment ~~to~~ from \$300,000.00 to \$362,000.00 for fiscal year 2014/2015.

M/S/C- (Householder/ Griggs) to approve March 27, 2014 meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

2. TRESURER'S REPORTS

The Treasurer, Pam Henry, presented her reports (See File Copy). The Board had no questions on the reports.

- a. Revenue Summary**
- b. General Fund Balance Sheet**
- c. General Fund Budget vs. Actual**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Spang addressed the Board regarding the playscape on Round Hill Road. Spang presented the Board with pictures of the current condition of the playscape (See File Copy). Spang stated the Round Hill Road playscape is the only public play area in Salem. Griggs stated that the playscape is used heavily during baseball season. Spang asked the Board to keep funding the replacement of the current playscape this year.

4. SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Lyden stated he had no report for the Board this month.

4A. AIR HANDLER DISCUSSION

Butcher stated that there is not an issue with the air handler unit but with some of the ceiling tiles below the unit. Butcher stated that some of the tiles have been damaged in the use of the gym. The Board stated that a structural engineer needs to evaluate the current tiles and grid for safety. Don Bourdeau will handle having an engineer inspect the current ceiling and grid.

4B. BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROPRIATION DISCUSSION

Butcher stated that he heard the BOE is running short on money. Kim Gadaree stated to the Board that the BOE will be coming to the Board for additional funds. Householder questioned the amount that the BOE would be requesting. Gadaree stated she did not know the amount needed. The Board stated that any amount over \$29,000.00 would need a town meeting. The Board suggested getting the amount needed as soon as possible so if a town meeting is needed then it could be scheduled.

5. CONSIDER ITEMS FROM APRIL 9, 2014 PUBLIC HEARING

Discussion took place regarding the public hearing. Householder recapped the public questions/comments from the public hearing. The Board stated it was good

to see a higher than normal attendance at the public hearing. Householder stated that the BOE did the townspeople a disservice by not providing their budget for discussion at the public hearing. The Board felt that the general public is dissatisfied with the current administration at Salem School. The Board stated that they hope the BOE takes the public comments into serious advisement.

Householder suggested that Department 91, budget line 1020, General Property Tax Prior, for fiscal year 2014/2015 should be changed from \$150,000.00 to \$170,000.00.

M/S/C-(Householder/ Eckart) to change Department 91, budget line 1020, General Property Tax Prior, for fiscal year 2014/2015 changed from \$150,000.00 to \$170,000.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Discussion took place about changes to the *Town of Salem 10 Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015* (See File Copy). The Board stated that line 3, BOE Site Plan, should be changed to \$0.00 because the cost will be covered by the Salem School Building Committee. The Board discussed changing line 24, PW Road Improvements back to original requested amount of \$370,000.00. Householder and Eckart suggested the amount be changed to \$350,000.00. The Board was in agreement that line 25, Recreation Playscape, remain as is on the *Town of Salem 10 Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015*.

M/S/C- (Preston/ Griggs) to decrease line 3, BOE Site Plan, on the *Town of Salem 10 Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015* from \$21,000.00 to \$0.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

M/S/C- (Preston/Kennedy) to increase line 24, PW Road Improvements, on the *Town of Salem 10 Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2014/2015* from \$292,000.00 to \$370,000.00.

Vote:

In Favor: Butcher/ Kennedy/ Preston/ Griggs

Opposed: Eckart/ Householder

The Board discussed changes to Salem General Government Budgets for fiscal year 2014/2015 (See File Copy). Butcher stated that no Bond payment will be paid this year. Butcher stated that even though no bond payment needs to be made, the interest and fees will still need to be paid. The Board decided to give the bond interest and bond fees separate lines.

M/S/C- (Griggs/ Kennedy) to decrease Department 920 line 5-920-000, School Bond Payment, from \$362,000.00 to \$0.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

M/S/C- (Preston/ Kennedy) - to increase Department 910 line 5-910-000, 2012 School Bond Payment from \$0.00 to \$95,000.00. And to change line title to 2012 School Bond Interest Payment.

Vote: Unanimous

M/S/C- (Kennedy/ Preston) – to add line 5-910-010, 2012 School Bond Fees, to Department 910 budget for fiscal year 2014/2015 in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

The Board Discussed Department 93, State/Federal Grants for Education, budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. Butcher stated that he spoke with the auditor, O’Conner Davies, and that line 4-093-151, Excess Cost Grant, should be decreased to \$0.00.

M/S/C- (Griggs/ Eckart) – to decrease Department 93 line 4-093-151, Excess Cost Grant, from \$297,943.00 to \$0.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

The Board discussed Department 92, State/Federal Grants, budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. Line 001, Town Aid Road (TAR) was the topic of discussion. Lyden stated that TAR account is going to be closed and moved back into the General Fund. Lyden is going to consult O’Conner Davies on the correct way to do so. The Board discussed Department 97, Miscellaneous Revenue, budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. The Board stated that line 072, Library Fees/Fines, is incorrect.

M/S/C – (Preston/ Householder) - to increase Department 97 line 072, Library Fees/Fines from \$13,500.00 to \$16,204.00.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

The Board discussed the BOE budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. Joseph Onofrio handed the Board a handout of proposed BOE cuts for a budget of \$10,500,000.00 (See File Copy). Eckart stated that she feels the Board should not go line by line on the budget because the Board doesn’t have control of how the money is spent. Eckart stated that the Board should come up with a bottom line amount. Preston suggested an amount of \$10,679,559.00 to be presented at the town meeting. Householder stated he would not support a BOE budget above \$10,500,000.00. The Board stated that they think the general census of the townspeople is discontent with Salem School and its administration and they hope the BOE takes that into consideration when making the cuts in their budget.

M/S/C- (Householder/ Preston) – to submit a BOE budget in the amount of 10,500,000.00 for fiscal year 2014/2015 for presentation at the Town Meeting on May 07, 2014.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

M/S/C- (Householder/ Eckart) – to submit Salem General Government budget in the amount of \$3,611,204.00 for fiscal year 2014/2015 for presentation at the Town Meeting on May 07, 2014.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

M/S/C- (Householder/ Eckart) – to submit Salem Capital Budget in the amount of \$785,385.00 for fiscal year 2014/2015 for presentation at the Town Meeting on May 07, 2014.

The Board discussed putting comment cards outside the polling rooms for voters. The Board feels it would help to understand why people voted one way or the other. Householder stated he would make the comment cards for review by the Board at the next meeting.

Old Business:

M/S/C – (Kennedy/ Griggs) to adjourn meeting at 9:37pm

Vote: Approved Unanimously